GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1721
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2016
Pollution of Water Bodies
Trivedi Shri Dinesh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government or any of its agencies maintain data on pollution of water bodies including the Indian Ocean, the Bay of Bengal and the lakes in the country and if so, the details thereof;
(b) the trends in pollution of these water bodies during each of the last three years; and
(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check/reduce pollution in these water bodies?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a)&(b) Monitoring of marine pollution through Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System Programme is carried out by Integrated Coastal and Marine Area Management Project Directorate (ICMAM), Chennai under Ministry of Earth Sciences. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) is monitoring water bodies covering rivers, lakes, ponds and wells (for ground water assessment) across the country under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP) at 2500 locations covering 1275 on rivers, 190 on lakes, 45 on drains, 41 on canals, 12 on tanks, 41 on creeks / seawater, 79 on ponds, 10 Water Treatment Plant (Raw Water) and 807 groundwater locations. According to an assessment of the CPCB, the water quality of 151 lakes, ponds & tanks are exceeding the prescribed limit in terms of BOD, a key indicator for organic pollution. The water quality at majority of locations of creeks and seawater are not meeting the prescribed criteria for Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Conductivity and Faecal Coliform.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to address the issues of water pollution include the following:-
i. Preparation of action plan for sewage management and restoration of water quality in aquatic resources by State Governments;
ii. Installation of Online Effluent Monitoring System to check the discharge of effluent directly into the rivers and water bodies;
iii. Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of water quality;
iv. Action to comply with effluent standards is taken by SPCBs / PCCs to improve the water quality of the rivers;
v. Installation of Common Effluent Treatment Plants for cluster of Small Scale Industrial units;
vi. Issuance of directions for implementation of Zero Liquid Discharge;
vii. Issuance of directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to industries and under Section 18(1)(b) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974;
viii. Implementation of National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) and National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP) for conservation and management of identified lakes and wetlands in the country which have been merged in February, 2013 into an integrated scheme of National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) to undertake various conservation activities including interception, diversion and treatment of waste water, pollution abatement, lake beautification, biodiversity conservation, education and awareness creation and community participation, etc.;
ix. Notified the Coastal Regulation Zone notification wherein coastal stretches are declared as Coastal Regulation Zones (CRZ) imposing restrictions on industries, operations and processes for conservation and protection of coastal areas and marine waters;
x. Constitution of National and State /Union Territory Coastal Zone Management Authorities under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to ensure monitoring and enforcement of the CRZ notification.

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